

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7052

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03942

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, SP, IT

SUBJECT: GERMAN OFFICIAL'S CURRENT VIEWS REGARDING
EUROPE

1. JUERGEN RUHFUS, THE FRG OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR WEST EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, HAS TOLD US THAT THE FRG IS STILL VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN EUROPE THOUGH ITS PRINCIPAL WORRIES NOW ARE ABOUT AFRICA.

2. RUHFUS SAID THE GERMANS WERE POSITIVELY IMPRESSED BY SPANISH INTERIOR MINISTER FRAGA DURING HIS VISIT LAST WEEK. THEY BELIEVE HE IS COMMITTED TO A COURSE OF DEMOCRATIZATION SIMPLY BECAUSE HE SEES NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE. THEY ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THE SPANISH RIGHT IS STILL VERY POWERFUL WHILE THE LEFT IS INCREASINGLY ASSERTIVE IN ITS DEMANDS; THIS MEANS THE MODERATES HAVE VERY LITTLE TIME TO THREAD A MIDDLE COURSE.

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3. RUHFUS SAID THAT HE KNEW OF NO MAJOR AID OR COOPERATION AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED DURING FRAGA'S VISIT HERE. THIS WOULD NOT EXCLUDE SOME MINOR ACCORDS WITH THE INTERIOR MINISTRY ON CERTAIN TYPES OF COOPERATION, BUT THERE HAD BEEN NOTHING OF SUFFICIENT SIGNIFICANCE TO WARRANT FOREIGN MINISTRY ATTENTION.

4. RUHFUS SAID THE FRG IS STILL VERY CONCERNED ABOUT ITALY. IT IS STRICTLY OPPOSED TO ANY "HISTORIC COMPROMISE" BUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ITALY SEEM TO BRING COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT EVER CLOSER. EVEN IF THAT PARTICIPATION DID NOT COME THIS YEAR, ONLY A DRAMATIC REVERSAL OF THE ITALIAN DOMESTIC SITUATION WOULD PREVENT IT FROM COMING IN THE NEXT FOUR OR FIVE YEARS.

5. RUHFUS SAID THE FRG WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE WAY IN WHICH THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES WERE REACTING TO THE GROWING SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE AROUND THEIR SHORES. INSTEAD OF SOFTENING THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD MOSCOW, HE SAID, THEY APPEAR TO BE HARDENING.

6. THE MAIN CONCERN FOR GERMANY IN THESE DAYS, RUHFUS OBSERVED, WAS NOT IN HIS AREA. IT WAS IN AFRICA, WHICH TO EUROPE WAS VERY MUCH AS LATIN AMERICA WAS TO THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID THAT IF THE SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES COULD GAIN CONTROL OF AFRICA, IT WOULD HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE.
HILLENBRAND

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